

XLIX.—*On Mammals from Manus Island Admiralty Group, and Ruk Island, Bismarck Archipelago.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

By the kindness of the Hon. Walter Rothschild the British Museum has had the opportunity of acquiring two collections of mammals, mostly bats, which had been obtained on the islands mentioned in the title by Mr. A. S. Meek and his brother-in-law Mr. Eichhorn.

With the exception of the few specimens collected by the 'Challenger' Expedition in 1875 (including the original series of *Pteropus admiralitatum*) the British Museum possessed no mammals at all from the Admiralty Islands, and from the Bismarck Archipelago only those got by the Rev. G. Brown on "Duke of York Island and the neighbouring shores of New Britain and New Ireland," and therefore little adapted for exact work on the insular distribution of the species. The two present collections are therefore extremely acceptable.

Curiously enough, there proves to be practically no difference between the corresponding species of the two collections; so that it would appear that there is one common fauna through the whole crescent of islands, from the Admiralties, through the main islands of the Bismarck Archipelago, to its extreme southern member Ruk Island.

Most of the species occurring in the two collections are already known from the larger Bismarck Islands, but in the case of *Dobsonia anderseni* it is possible that the similar-sized *D. pradatrix* may prove to represent it in the intermediate islands, even though it does belong to a different group of the genus.

The whole series consists of 43 specimens, belonging to 16 species, of which 4 have proved to need description as new. Some other new Australasian species which have now become evident are described in the succeeding paper.

1. *Pteropus neohibernicus*, Pet.

Two from Manus and one from Ruk.

2. *Pteropus capistratus*, Pet.

Two from Ruk.

These additional specimens of this rare and beautiful fruit-bat are very welcome.

3. *Dobsonia anderseni*, sp. n.

Three from Manus and three from Ruk.

A member of the *D. moluccensis* group. Size intermediate between that of the two large and the two smaller members of the group. Colour of head and mantle unusually dark.

The following account is arranged as in Dr. Andersen's Catalogue:—

Diagnosis. Allied to *D. moluccensis*, but smaller. Forearm in adults 123–125 mm. *Hab.* Admiralty and Ruk Islands.

Dentition as in *D. moluccensis*, the ridges and cusps quite as in that species.

Colour. Very dark. Head blackish brown, almost black; mantle dark brown, allied to but much darker than Ridgway's "mummy-brown"; conspicuously darker than in any of the four known species of the *moluccensis* group. Under surface sepia, the centre of the abdomen with an inconspicuous wash of dull ochraceous.

Dentition as in *D. moluccensis*, the ridges and cusps of the teeth quite as in that species.

Measurements:—

Forearm of type 124 mm., other specimens 123, 125 mm.

Third finger, metacarpal 79, first phalanx 56; lower leg and foot (c. u.) 89.

Skull: greatest length 54.5; palation to incisive foramina 25.2; zygomatic breadth 33.6; interorbital breadth 9; intertemporal breadth 8; front of canine to back of m^2 20; m^1 5.7 × 3; m_1 4.5 × 2.2.

Range. Admiralty Islands and Ruk Island, southern Bismarck Archipelago. This would seem to involve occurrence in the other islands of the Bismarck Archipelago; but as these are occupied by *D. prædatrix*, a species of about the same size, but of quite another group, it is possible that the range of *D. anderseni* is really interrupted, and only covers the two islands first mentioned.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 14. 4. 1. 4. Collected 7th October, 1913.

This species is in size intermediate between *D. exoleta* and *moluccensis*, and fills up the gap between "a. Much smaller" and "b. Much larger" in Dr. Andersen's synopsis of the species (Cat. p. 459). It is also readily distinguishable from any of the other species of the section by its very much darker colour.

I have named the species in honour of Dr. K. Andersen, in recognition of the striking monograph of *Dobsonia* contained

in his Catalogue, a monograph which has entirely revolutionized our knowledge of the group. The fact also that the genus is named after Dr. G. E. Dobson creates a suitable juxtaposition of two names that must always be historical in connection with the classification of the Chiroptera.

4. *Nyctimene vizcaccia*, sp. n.

Ruk Island. One specimen. Female. Collected 31st July, 1913. B.M. no. 14. 4. 1. 31. *Type*.

Allied to *N. varius*, K. And., with which it shares the varied Vizcacha- or *Lagidium*-like fur, strongly spotted condition of wings, and coalescence of the inner with the main cusp of p^3 , but distinguished by the further coalescence of the corresponding cusps in the lower jaw and by its greater size.

Size medium, just on the upper limit of Dr. Andersen's "small" species. Fur long, hairs of back nearly 10 mm. in length. General colour above irregularly varied drab-grey, singularly like that of *Lagidium*, and in this way corresponding with that of *N. varius* and differing from that of the more uniformly coloured *N. papuanus*. Dorsal streak beginning at withers, rather well marked considering the waviness of the hair, but not nearly so much so as in *N. papuanus*. Under surface drabby grey laterally, pale buffy mesially, paler than in *varius*. Ears, arms, and digits profusely spotted with yellow, more so than in the allied species; wing-membranes also much mottled with yellow.

Skull much larger and heavier than that of *N. varius*, slightly exceeding in size the largest skulls of *N. papuanus*.

Teeth agreeing with those of *N. varius* and *minutus* in the fusion of the inner with the outer cusp of p^3 , but differing by the further fusion of the corresponding cusp of p_3 .

Dimensions of the type:—

Forearm 60 mm.

Third finger, metacarpus 44, first phalanx 32; lower leg and hind foot (c. u.) 37.

Skull: greatest length 29·8; zygomatic breadth 19·7; interorbital breadth 6·3; palatal length 14·7; maxillary tooth-row 10.

Type as above.

This species curiously bears out Dr. Andersen's arrangement of the genus by the correlation of its wavy fur with the structure of p^3 , just as in his group " b^2 ," consisting of *N. minutus* and *varius*. Then, being even more mottled and spotted, it equally goes further in dentition, by its p_3 also

taking on the same character as the corresponding upper tooth.

5. *Macroglossus ligochilus nanus*, Matsch.

One from Manus and one from Ruk.

The Admiralty specimen has seven cheek-teeth on each side below and six on one side above. It therefore attains, though with a different formula, the highest number of teeth mentioned in Dr. Andersen's list of abnormalities (Cat. pp. 754-5).

6. *Hipposideros demissus mirandus*, subsp. n.

Two specimens. Manus Island.

Like *H. demissus* of the Eastern Solomons, but without the definite lighter markings on the shoulders and underside characteristic of that form.

Nose-leaf apparently as in *demissus*, the median projection of the sella, however, unusually well developed. Lateral supplementary leaves short, the third one reduced to a few millimetres in length.

Colour uniformly pale brown; the tips of the dorsal hairs dark brown, their basal three-fourths pale buffy brown; shoulder- and lateral stripes little marked. Under surface little lighter than upper, uniformly pale brown, quite without the marked whitening in the pectoral region characteristic of *demissus*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Forearm 68.5 mm. (other specimen 72).

Third finger, metacarpus 50, first phalanx 23; lower leg and hind foot (c. u.) 42.8.

Skull: greatest length to front of canines 28; median upper length 23.5; zygomatic breadth 15.6; facial breadth 8.3; intertemporal breadth 3.1; maxillary tooth-row 11.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 14.4.1.8. Original number 20. Collected 20th September, 1913.

7. *Pipistrellus angulatus*, Pet.

One. Manus Island, Admiralty Island.

8. *Murina* sp.

One. Ruk Island.

Allied to *M. lanosa* of Ceram.

9. *Miniopterus* sp. (large).

Manus Island (four).

10. *Miniopterus* sp. (small).

Manus Island (one).

I am not at present in a position to determine these specimens with any hope of accuracy.

11. *Kerivoula myrella*, sp. n.

One from Admiralty Island and three from Ruk Island.

General external characters as in *K. hardwickei*, to which a specimen from Duke of York Island (New Lauenburg) was referred by Dobson in 1878. Size rather greater. Upper-side of feet, tibiæ, and femora distinctly more heavily haired, the interfemoral also rather more hairy and with some hairs along its posterior margin.

Skull with the brain-case more inflated anteriorly, as in *Phoniscus*, but the muzzle of the specialized bent-up form characteristic of *Kerivoula*, that of *Phoniscus* being more normal. Front of muzzle, however, broadened to carry the much enlarged canines, the narrowest breadth of the rostrum being across the middle premolars instead of the anterior ones.

Teeth.—Inner upper incisors slender, unicuspid, outer ones about half their height. Canines very large and thick, of about normal section, though a young specimen shows something of the peculiar shape found in *Phoniscus*; projecting laterally outwards so as to be conspicuously visible from above and to have a markedly greater lateral expansion than the premolars next behind them, these again exceeding the median pair, the narrowest part across the maxillary tooth-row being outside the latter teeth. In *K. hardwickei* the tooth-row narrows forwards, and the narrowest part is across the anterior premolars. Premolars of normal shape, broader transversely than antero-posteriorly. In *K. agnella* the canines are somewhat, though not so much, enlarged, but the premolars are much narrower transversely. Lower premolars rather bulkier than in *hardwickei*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Forearm 37·5 mm. (other specimens 38, 38·5).

Third finger, metacarpus 40, first phalanx 17·2; lower leg and hind foot (c. u.) 26.

Skull: greatest length 14·6; median upper length 12·3;

breadth of brain-case 7·7; palato-sinual length 6·6; maxillary tooth-row 6·1; outer breadth across canines 3·9.

Hab. Admiralty Islands and Bismarck Archipelago. Type from Manus Island.

Type. Adult (probably male). B.M. no. 14. 4. 1. 10. Original number 13. Collected 8th September, 1913.

This species is readily distinguishable by the enlargement of its canines, a development which reaches its extreme in the great sabre-like canines of *Phoniscus*. Indeed, I do not feel sure how far the status of *Phoniscus* as a distinct genus will be affected by the condition found in *K. myrella* and *agnella*, in each of which something of its character is shown.

I may note here that on Mr. Miller's suggestion I have examined the types of *Kerivoula papuensis*, Dobs., and *K. javana*, Thos., and find them both to be clearly referable to *Phoniscus*.

12. *Emballonura solomonis*, Thos.

Three from Manus and three from Ruk Island.

As happens so frequently, the Bismarck Archipelago form is quite like that of the Solomons, while the New Guinea one is distinct. The latter is described in the next paper.

13. *Epimys browni*, Alst.

Three. Manus Island.

14. *Phalanger maculatus krümeri*, Schwarz.

Two specimens (and two in Tring Museum). Manus Island.

15. *Phalanger orientalis*, Pall.

♂. Ruk Island.

16. *Echymipera cockerelli*, Rams.

♂. Admiralty Island.

L.—*New Asiatic and Australasian Bats and a new Bandicoot.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

Eptesicus pumilus caurinus, subsp. n.

General characters as in *pumilus*, but size smaller, the forearm about the minimum for the species, and the skull conspicuously smaller.